

EARMARKS

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, earmarks represent the culture of spending that has led to record deficits and debts that are literally costing us our future. We've got to change that culture, and we've got to start right now. Today, we can save the American taxpayer as much as \$16.5 billion. That money can go to pay down some of the debt we've accrued against our children's future. That's why I made the decision last year to forgo earmarks. It wasn't an easy decision, but it was the right one. That's why President Obama and Montana's Democrat Governor have also thrown their support behind eliminating earmarks.

But earmarks are just the beginning. We also need to balance the budget and seriously cut spending across the board. If Congress doesn't have the courage to cut earmarks, how can we hope to tackle the bigger problems later?

HONORING ANTOINE GARIBALDI

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great leader in Erie, Pennsylvania, Antoine Garibaldi, the sixth president of Gannon University.

Dr. Garibaldi has been a dynamic force in higher education and throughout the community. Since 2001, he has worked to ensure that Gannon remains a world-class university. Dr. Garibaldi's visionary leadership has helped Gannon's enrollment grow by more than 24 percent.

With his wife, Carol, Antoine has led revitalization efforts to make downtown Erie a vibrant, thriving area. The Garibaldis' work benefits not only the students of Gannon but the whole of the Erie community. I am grateful for their commitment to our city.

Antoine Garibaldi is a pillar in the Erie community, and it is with grateful hearts that we wish him the greatest of fortune as he takes on the role of president of the University of Detroit Mercy next year.

Dr. Garibaldi's service in the area will be greatly missed, and we thank him for all that he has done.

NATIONAL DAY OF RECOGNITION FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of the National Day of Recognition for Parents of Children with Special

Needs to honor those who have dedicated themselves to making the lives of their special needs children better and more fulfilling.

I saw a news program over the Thanksgiving holiday that talked about a time in this country when children who were different or had special needs were often institutionalized or forgotten. That was less than 50 years ago.

There are still children who need extreme care that can't be given by their parents alone, but many of these parents begin a journey with their special needs child with a goal of making their lives as complete and stimulating as possible. The journey takes them through medical journals and expert opinions. It often places them in opposition to established school procedures and leads them to new solutions to pave the way for other special needs students. It takes their time, their treasure, and most of all their love and patience.

These parents don't give up or give in, and their children are the better for it.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND TAX CUTS

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give voice to the growing chorus of millions of hard-working Americans who are without their unemployment benefits and to middle class taxpayers who deserve tax cuts on their income up to \$250,000 permanently.

We're seeing a steady improvement in the economy, but families are still struggling and need unemployment benefits to put food on the table and remain in their homes. Extending unemployment is more than support for our families, friends, and neighbors; it's also good economics. According to the independent Congressional Budget Office, it's hands down the most cost-effective stimulus available.

Mr. Speaker, I want to clear up the confusion. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are fighting for tax cuts for millionaires while millions of Americans are losing unemployment benefits. My colleagues on the other side are calling for us to pay for \$18 billion to extend unemployment but refuse to see the hypocrisy of putting \$700 billion of tax cuts for millionaires on the backs of our children and grandchildren.

To be clear, Mr. Speaker, this Congresswoman and congressional Democrats are fighting for real families, 98 percent of middle class families, 9.6 percent unemployed. Republicans are fighting for the 2 percenters, the millionaires.

Let's stop it right here.

HONORING "CHI CHI" RODRIGUEZ

(Mr. PIERLUISI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1430, which honors "Chi Chi" Rodriguez for his commitment to Latino youth programs.

Chi Chi was born into a poor family in Puerto Rico and began working at the age of 7. He taught himself how to play golf and enjoyed a very successful professional career, becoming the first Puerto Rican inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

I rise today, though, to commend Chi Chi not for his extraordinary golf skills but for his philanthropy. His civic work has helped countless youths and earned him membership in the World Humanitarian Hall of Fame.

Yesterday, it was suggested on the floor of this House that it is a waste of time and resources to consider and pass this resolution. With all due respect, it is never a waste of time to recognize and praise the actions of a great human being, particularly when those actions help our youth.

It is one thing to promote fiscal responsibility; it is quite another to ignore or, even worse, intend to demean the feats of an extraordinary American.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for House Resolution 1430.

JEC UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REPORT MAKES STRONG CASE

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, last night the unemployment benefits expired for 2 million Americans, including over 159,000 New Yorkers and 95,000 residents of New York City. The Joint Economic Committee, which I chair, released a report that finds that there could be serious unintended consequences if Congress should not renew this vital program; consequences not just for 2 million Americans who lost their jobs, but for our larger economy as well.

Failing to renew the program with its 99-week cap could result in the loss of over 1 million jobs over the next year, wiping out almost a year's worth of hard-won progress. Failing to preserve unemployment benefits would also drain the economy of \$80 billion in purchasing power just as our fragile economy is recovering.

At a time when there are five unemployed Americans for every job opening, failing to extend unemployment benefits goes against both all common sense and economic sense. We must support and extend this vital renewal of this program.

MIDDLE CLASS TAXES

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)